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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,422	02/22/2002	David M. Prestipino	47168-00216	1031

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EXAMINER

LEWIS, RALPH A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3732

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

✓w

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/081,422	Applicant(s) PRESTIPINO, DAVID M.	
	Examiner Ralph A. Lewis	Art Unit 3732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 24-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the examiner is confused by the limitation added to claim 1 that the main body has a lower region "that increases in dimension toward a lowermost surface of said main body, said increasing dimension . . ." The language seems to be suggesting some surface that flares outwardly (i.e. "increasing in dimension"), however, applicant's Figures fail to illustrate such "increasing" dimensions. Applicant's claim 2, that further states that the "increasing dimension is defined by a lower groove" makes no sense. How can the "surface that increases in dimension" be defined by the reduced area of illustrated groove 14?

Withdrawal of Indicated Allowability

The indicated allowability of Claims 24-29 is withdrawn in view of the following new grounds of rejection.

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Rejections based on Prior Art

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 and 24-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaty et al (US 5,419,702) in view of Lazzara et al (US 5,863,201).

In Figure 7 Beaty et al disclose an implant analog 54' for use in developing a dental prosthesis. The Beaty et al analog has an unthreaded main body with a flat section and a lower grooved section that is to be fixedly engaged in the stone 52' of model 50'. The lower main body portion of Beaty et al appears to be nearly identical in shape to that illustrated by applicant. The Beaty et al model includes soft modeling material 80 that surrounds the upper portion of the implant analog 54' and is intended to replicate gingival tissue. The Beaty et al implant analog 54' has an upper portion that extends above the bone that is intended to replicate the upper section implant 10 that extends above the bone. The Beaty et al implant has no upper groove that extends above the bone, consequently the Beaty et al Figure 7 analog lacks the claimed "upper groove."

Lazzara et al, however, disclose an implant 10 that includes an upper groove 14 that is intended to extend above the bone. Lazzara et al indicate that the implant is intended to be used such that the upper groove 14 engages gingival tissue and the

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lower threaded region engages bone. In order to develop a prosthesis for the Lazzara et al implant one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have used the prior art teaching of Beaty et al and provided an analog with an unthreaded main body, flat section, lower grooved section and an upper section that extends above the bone which replicates the upper above bone section of the Lazzara implant.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-23 are allowed.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to **Ralph Lewis** at telephone number **(703) 308-0770**. Fax (703) 872-9306. The examiner works a compressed work schedule and is unavailable every other Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver, can be reached at (703) 308-2582.


Ralph A. Lewis
Primary Examiner
Ah3732

R. Lewis
September 17, 2004